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No. 09/971,830

IN THE CLAIMS

1-13 (canceled)

14. (previously presented) A racket comprising:

a frame having a handle defining a longitudinal axis;

a head connected to the handle and defining a racket face, wherein the head has parallel first and second transversal sides and parallel first and second longitudinal sides, wherein the first and second transversal sides and the first and second longitudinal sides are firmly connected together at their ends such that each of the sides is substantially inflexible in relation to the other sides;

a plurality of transversal strings extending between the first and second longitudinal sides and substantially covering the racket face, wherein the transversal strings are of substantially identical length, wherein the transversal strings run essentially parallel to each other, wherein the transversal strings are generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, and wherein at least three of the transversal strings are strung from a first single string; and,

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a plurality of longitudinal strings extending between the first and second transversal sides and substantially covering the racket face, wherein the longitudinal strings are of substantially identical length, wherein the longitudinal strings run essentially parallel to each other, wherein the longitudinal strings are generally parallel to the longitudinal axis, and wherein at least three of the longitudinal strings are strung from a second single string.

15. (previously presented) The racket of claim 14 wherein the head and the racket face are rectangular shaped.

16. (previously presented) The racket of claim 14 wherein at least a pair of the first and second transversal sides and the first and second longitudinal sides curve slightly.

17. (previously presented) The racket of claim 16 wherein the curved sides have a curvature such that the string tension of the strings between the curved sides brings the curved sides back to a substantially straight and parallel position.

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18. (previously presented) The racket of claim 14 wherein the distances between all intersection points of the strings are equal.

19. (previously presented) The racket of claim 14 wherein the space between the transversal strings varies, and wherein the space between the longitudinal strings varies.

20. (previously presented) The racket of claim 14 wherein the transversal strings and the longitudinal strings are of unequal length, and wherein the tension and/or mass values of the transversal strings and the longitudinal strings are selected so that the vibrational frequencies of the transversal and longitudinal strings are equal.

21. (previously presented) A racket comprising:

a frame having a handle defining a longitudinal axis;

a head connected to the handle and defining a racket face, wherein the head has parallel first and

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second transversal sides and parallel first and second longitudinal sides, and wherein the first and second transversal sides and the first and second longitudinal sides are firmly connected together at their ends such that each of the sides is substantially inflexible in relation to the other sides;

a plurality of transversal strings extending between the first and second longitudinal sides and substantially covering the racket face, wherein the transversal strings are of substantially identical length, wherein the transversal strings run essentially parallel to each other, and wherein the transversal strings are generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis; and,

a plurality of longitudinal strings extending between the first and second transversal sides and substantially covering the racket face, wherein the longitudinal strings are of substantially identical length, wherein the longitudinal strings run essentially parallel to each other, wherein the longitudinal strings are generally parallel to the longitudinal axis, and wherein at least three of the longitudinal strings and at least three of the transversal strings are strung from a single string.

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22. (previously presented) The racket of
claim 21 wherein the head and the racket face are
rectangular shaped.

23. (previously presented) The racket of
claim 21 wherein at least a pair of the first and second
transversal sides and the first and second longitudinal
sides curve slightly.

24. (previously presented) The racket of
claim 23 wherein the curved sides have a curvature such
that the string tension of the strings between the curved
sides brings the curved sides back to a substantially
straight and parallel position.

25. (previously presented) The racket of
claim 21 wherein the distances between all intersection
points of the strings are equal.

26. (previously presented) The racket of
claim 21 wherein the space between the transversal
strings varies, and wherein the space between the
longitudinal strings varies.

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27. (previously presented) The racket of claim 21 wherein the transversal strings and the longitudinal strings are of unequal length, and wherein the tension and/or mass values of the transversal strings and the longitudinal strings are selected so that the vibrational frequencies of the transversal and longitudinal strings are equal.

28. (previously presented) A racket comprising:

a frame having a handle defining a longitudinal axis;

a head connected to the handle, wherein the head has parallel first and second transversal sides and parallel first and second longitudinal sides, wherein the first and second transversal sides and the first and second longitudinal sides have holes therethrough and are firmly connected together at their ends such that each of the sides is substantially inflexible in relation to the other sides;

a plurality of transversal strings being strung through the holes in the first and second longitudinal sides, wherein the transversal strings are of

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substantially identical length, wherein the transversal strings run essentially parallel to each other, and wherein the transversal strings are generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis; and,

a plurality of longitudinal strings being strung through the holes in the first and second transversal sides, wherein the longitudinal strings are of substantially identical length, wherein the longitudinal strings run essentially parallel to each other, wherein the longitudinal strings are generally parallel to the longitudinal axis, and wherein the transversal and longitudinal strings are secured to the frame by at least one knot.

29. (previously presented) The racket of claim 28 wherein the head has a racket face covered by the longitudinal and transversal strings, and wherein the head and the racket face are rectangular shaped.

30. (previously presented) The racket of claim 28 wherein at least a pair of the first and second transversal sides and the first and second longitudinal sides curve slightly.

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31. (previously presented) The racket of claim 30 wherein the curved sides have a curvature such that the string tension of the strings between the curved sides brings the curved sides back to a substantially straight and parallel position.

32. (previously presented) The racket of claim 28 wherein the distances between all intersection points of the strings are equal.

33. (previously presented) The racket of claim 28 wherein the space between the transversal strings varies, and wherein the space between the longitudinal strings varies.

34. (previously presented) The racket of claim 28 wherein the transversal strings and the longitudinal strings are of unequal length, and wherein the tension and/or mass values of the transversal strings and the longitudinal strings are selected so that the vibrational frequencies of the transversal and longitudinal strings are equal.